

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Natalia Cresco, and I live in New Haven, Connecticut. I stand in support of HB 6616: AN ACT CONCERNING EXPANSION OF HUSKY HEALTH BENEFITS TO THOSE INELIGIBLE DUE TO IMMIGRATION STATUS.

This legislation is important to me because when people get sick but do not have health insurance, they cannot go to the hospital if they are ineligible due to immigration status. Additionally, it causes us to feel discriminated against and to feel like we do not have any rights. In my case, I have suffered from fibroids for years but cannot get check-ups due to not having medical insurance.

I have suffered from having a lot of fibroids in my uterus and ovaries. Because I am undocumented, I cannot seek the proper follow up care and specialized care that I need to help me feel better. Sometimes the fibroids cause very severe pain but I have to wait and cannot seek care at the hospital.

This legislation would help my community because it would help us feel like we have access to healthcare. Currently, when we feel sick, we go to the pharmacy to get basic over-the-counter medication but we do not go to the doctor. Access to healthcare would allow us to seek the necessary care, get the necessary tests done, and have follow up care.

I support HB 6616, and I urge the committee to support and pass this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Natalia Cresco